

News Release

U of M Crookston Continues Trend Surpassing Enrollment Records; Number of degree-seeking students up more than 50 percent from 2006

By Itollefs on Thursday, October 13, 2011

The number of degree-seeking students enrolled at the University of Minnesota, Crookston fall semester 2011 has surpassed previous record levels, continuing a five-year trend of increasing enrollment and a fourth year of record high enrollment. Official enrollment figures for all University of Minnesota campuses were announced at the Board of Regents meeting this afternoon.

Enrollment data puts the number of degree-seeking students attending the Crookston campus at 1,600 for fall semester 2011. That number bests 2010's all-time record of 1,462 undergraduates and signifies an increase of 9.4% since last fall. When comparing fall 2011 enrollment to fall 2006, the percentage is even more remarkable, reflecting an increase of 52% in degree-seeking students over that five-year period.

The number of undergrads pursuing their degrees online is also up, bringing the total of online-only students to 464. The U of M, Crookston now offers ten degree programs entirely online, adding its on-campus programs in communication, information technology management, and health management to its online offerings this fall.

Not surprisingly, the growth in enrollment resulted from an increase in applications, but the Crookston campus also has made strides in retention and graduation rates. It continues to attract quality students, indicated by the rise in the average ACT score for incoming students, which rose from 21.6 last year to 21.8 for fall semester 2011.

While the reputation of the Crookston campus has continued to advance--enhanced most recently by receiving recognition and "Best College" designations from both U.S. News and World Report and The Princeton Review again this fall--the enrollment growth is attributed to additional factors. "Students are definitely attracted to the University of Minnesota brand, the educational options and degrees we provide, and the personal attention they receive here," says Charles Casey, chancellor of the U of M, Crookston.

"Prospective students and their families who visit the campus instantly understand our marketing theme, 'Small Campus. Big Degree.' They often comment on the friendly, personal feeling and compare it to that of a small private school," says Casey. "When I visit with our graduates and their families at commencement in spring, they express how important the attention and mentorship from faculty and staff have been to them," he adds.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston now delivers 26 undergraduate degree programs--ten of which are also available entirely online--and welcomes students from more than 25 countries and 40 states. To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

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